

February 18, 2005

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *Ex Parte* Communications in CS Docket 97-80

Dear Chairman Powell:

On behalf of the consumer electronics and information technology industries, the undersigned CEOs and senior-level executives urge the Federal Communications Commission (the "Commission") to maintain the requirement for all digital cable products to use separable security and to maintain the July 1, 2006, deadline for cable operators' compliance, as currently written in the Commission's rules.

As we have discussed in previous meetings with you and your staff, cable operators and their vendors must be required to produce separable security technology in order to enhance consumer choice and to satisfy the expectations of retail consumers for ever-improving and reasonably priced devices.

The only way to ensure that consumers enjoy the benefits of a competitive marketplace is to maintain the requirement that devices supplied by cable operators rely on the **same** CableCARDS for security that must be used by equipment supplied through competitive retail outlets. This is precisely what 47 C.F.R. Section 76.1204 requires.

Moreover, additional delay or elimination of the July 1, 2006, deadline would end any chance of moving intelligence from the cable box to other devices. As a result, the ability of our companies to innovate and provide consumer choice and competition in features and products would be seriously undermined. We believe that this result is in conflict with the Commission's goals.

For the reasons outlined above, we urge the Commission to maintain the July 1, 2006, deadline for cable operators' compliance with the Commission's rules.

Sincerely yours,

Al Arras
President
TTE Corporation (manufacturer of
RCA-brand television products)

Toshihiko Fujimoto
Chairman
Sharp Electronics Corporation

Reinier Jens
President and CEO
Philips Consumer Electronics North America

Yoshihiro Matsumoto
President & CEO
Toshiba America Consumer Products, L.L.C

Ikuo Morisada
President
Mitsubishi Digital Electronics America, Inc.

Kenji Nakamura
General Manager/Executive Vice President
Hitachi America Ltd., Home Electronics Division

Michael Ramsay
Chairman and CEO
TiVo Inc.

Shigeharu Tsuchitani
Chairman of Board, President and CEO
JVC Americas Corp.

Keven Kettler
Chief Technology Officer
Dell, Inc.

Shane V. Robison
Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy and
Technology Officer
Hewlett-Packard Company

Donald M. Whiteside
Vice President, Corporate Technology Group
Intel Corporation

Michael T. Williams
Executive Vice President & General Counsel
Sony Electronics Inc.

cc: Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary (for inclusion in CS Docket No. 97-80)
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Jonathan Cody
Jordan Goldstein
Stacy Robinson Fuller
Daniel Gonzalez
Catherine Crutcher Bohigian
Eric Bash
Kenneth Ferree
Deborah Klein
Rick Chesson
William Johnson
Steve Broeckaert
Mary Beth Murphy
Natalie Roisman
Alison Greenwald
John Wong
Thomas Horan